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Message Text

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46
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 NSCE-00

H-03 AGR-20 COME-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SWF-02 INR-11

CIAE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /131 W
---------- 070726
R 090935Z SEP 74
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR EPAP CH US
SUBJECT: US PLANT STUDIES DELEGATION VISIT TO THE PRC

SUMMARY: AFTER VISITS TO COMMUNES AND AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS AROUND PEKING AND IN KIRIN PROVINCE THE US PLANT STUDIES DELEGATION STOPPED OVER IN PEKING SEPTEMBER 6 BEFORE LEAVING FOR SOUTHERN CHINA. DELEGATION MEMBERS SAIDTHEY WERE VERY SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT TO DATE. THEY NOTED THAT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL OF PRC PLANT RESEARCH WAS GENERALLY TEN TO TWENTY YEARS BEHIND THE UNITED STATES AND BELIEVED THE CHINESE COULD BENEFIT FROM FUTURE EXCHANGES WITH THE US IN THIS AREA. USLO BELIEVES THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A THOROUGH DEBRIEFING OF THIS INFORMED GROUP UPON THEIR RETURN TO THE US. END SUMMARY.

1. THE US PLANT STUDIES DELEGATION ARRIVED BACK IN PEKING SEPTEMBER 6 AFTER A THREE DAY VISIT TO CH'ANG CH'UN IN KIRIN PROVINCE. THE GROUP, WHICH IS HOSTED BY THE CHINESE AGRONOMY SOCIETY, EARLIER SPENT FIVE DAYS IN PEKING FOLLOWING ITS ARRIVAL ON AUGUST 28. IN PEKING
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THE AMERICANS MET WITH AGRONOMY SOCIETY ACTING PRESIDENT

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HAO CHUNG-SHIH AND CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE VICE-PRESIDENT
WU YU-HSUN. (NCNA SEPTEMBER 6.) THE AGRONOMY SOCIETY,
THE AMERICAN VISITORS BELIEVE, IS A "PROFESSIONAL" ASSOCIATION
OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS WITH BRANCHES IN MAJOR
CHINESE CITIES.

2. USLO OFFICERS DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DETAILED
DISCUSSION WITH THE DELEGATION MEMBERS, BUT WE HAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT THEY PICKED UP MUCH INFORMATION (E.G. ON
SEED STRAINS THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING) THAT SHOULD
BE HELPFUL TO THOSE MAKING ESTIMATES OF CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION. THEY HAD NOT YET SEEN ANY RESEARCH INSTITUTES,
BUT THEY DID HAVE OPEN AND INFORMATIVE EXCHANGES WITH THOSE
DOING RESEARCH AT COMMUNES AND AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTAL
STATIONS. THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF
CHINESE RESEARCH EFORTS AND WITH SOME OF THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS,
BUT DESCRIBED THE LEVEL OF CHINESE PLANT RESEARCH
IN GENERAL AS 10 TO 20 YEARS BEHIND THE US. THEY BELIEVED
THE CHINESE COULD BENEFIT FROM FUTURE EXCHANGES OF
TECHNICAL INFORMATION WITH THE US. ONE OF THE AMERICANS
POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE US HAS ALREADY DEVELOPED
A STRAIN OF MAIZE WHICH IS RESISTANT TO CORN BLIGHT
WIDELY PREVALENT IN THE CHINESE NORTHEAST.

3. DELEGATION MEMBERS SAID THEY WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED
WITH THE CONDITION OF CROPS (CORN, SORGHUM, AND MILLET)
WHICH THEY OBSERVED AROUND PEKING AND IN KIRIN. RAINFALL
HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN PLENTIFUL AND THE CHINESE OFFICIALS
THEY MET WERE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT HARVEST PROSPECTS
THIS YEAR.

4. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, CSCPRC STAFFER ALEXANDER
DEANGELIS SAID HE DID NOT SEE POSTERS OR ANY OTHER SIGNS
OF OVERT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN CH'ANG CH'UN DURING THE
DELEGATION'S VISIT. HE CONTRASTED THE APPARENT CALM IN
CH'ANG CH'UN WITH THE POSTER ACTIVITY HE HAD EARLIER SEEN
IN CANTON.

5. AFTER VISITS TO SIAN, HANGCHOW, SHANGHAI AND CANTON,
THE DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO THE US VIA HONG KONG
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AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THEM
TO CONTACT THE CONGEN AND HOPE THEY WILL DO SO. THIS GROUP
IS BOTH INFORMED AND ARTICULATE, AND WOULD BE WELL WORTH
EXTENSIVE DEBRIEFING IN BOTH HONG KONG AND WASHINGTON ON
THE RESULTS OF THEIR VISIT.
BRUCE

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